Telephone MUrray Hill 2-0500



New York 17, N. Y.

425 LEXINGTON AVENUE

February 5, 1958

The Honorable Richard Nixon Vice President of the United States Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Vice President:

I read your letter with care and deep concern. While I know that Rome was not built in a day, I think you will agree I have shown some patience throughout the years with the slow progress made in the field of civil rights. Nevertheless, I am convinced that those of us who are earnestly concerned about the problems of civil rights and integration must measure progress not in terms of how much progress we have made recently but how far we have yet to go before we achieve full first class citizenship for the Negro. Until we do give him all the rights to which he is entitled under the constitution, we cannot hope to successfully forestall the propaganda immenating from those we refer to as the non-Democratic countries. Moreover, top Negro leadership which attempts to meet this propaganda no matter how insincere the basis for this propaganda is, will be repudiated by the Negro masses if they attempt to justify the thought of a "breathing spell" in the fight for integration at a time the total Negro south and the best elements of the white south are looking to the government for leadership and protection from disaster at the hands of the representatives of the white citizens council and white office holders in the South who are determined that the Supreme Court's mandate will not be obeyed in our life time.

Finally, I must say I have come to the conclusion that

Jato Jako

The Honorable Richard Nixon page 2 February 5, 1958 Vice President of the United States Washington, D. C.

the fight for integration is not being played with gentlemen who observe the rules of cricket. In this fight no holds are bared, therefore, I respectfully suggest that

the fight for integration is not being played with gentlemen who observe the rules of cricket. In this fight no holds are bared, therefore, I respectfully suggest that it seems to me in a fight with the enemy we cannot tell them in advance, as Mr. Rogers did, that we will allow a breathing spell and if all turns out well we will go forward. We must if we are to win this fight put all people on notice who indicate that they will defy the Supreme law of the land that we on the other hand will maintain a ceasless and continuing effort to make the mandate of the Supreme Court a reality in our life time.

Sincerely yours,

Jackie Robinson

JR:cc